

## Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Winsemius Awards to honour Dr. Albert Winsemius' legacy and celebrate 60 years of long-lasting relations between Singapore and the Netherlands.

**May 9, 2025 (Singapore)** — The Dutch Chamber of Commerce (DutchCham) is honoured to announce that Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Singapore and Brunei, Mrs. Anneke Adema, along with Mrs. Petri Hofsté will be our esteemed guests of honour at the Winsemius Awards 2025. These distinguished guests **symbolize and reinforce the long-standing bond and robust business ties between Singapore and the Netherlands**. The evening will be hosted by Joel Tng.

This year the Winsemius Awards are **particularly special** as the Netherlands and Singapore commemorate the milestone of 60 years of bilateral relations, while DutchCham will also celebrate 35 years of its presence in Singapore.

The DutchCham Winsemius Awards are named in honour of Dutch economist Dr. Albert Winsemius (1910-1996), who significantly influenced Singapore's national economic development strategy. He is best known for his role as the economic advisor to Singapore from 1961 to 1984. He led the United Nations Survey Mission to Singapore and presented a 10-year development plan aimed at transforming Singapore from an entrepot trading port into a hub for manufacturing and industrialisation.

Winsemius is credited by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew for laying the foundations of Singapore's economic progress and prosperity. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew remarked: *"Singapore and I personally are indebted to him (Winsemius) for the time, energy and development he gave to Singapore. I am proud to have known him and to have been his friend."* As an architect of Singapore's economic policies in the early days, Dr. Albert Winsemius and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew developed a close relationship over the years. Their friendship symbolizes the strong ties and connections between Singapore and the Netherlands.

In recognition of his contributions to Singapore's economic development, Winsemius received several honours. In 1967, Yusof Ishak, the first President of Singapore, awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1970, he was conferred an honorary degree by the National University of Singapore. In 1976, he received the National Trades Union Congress' May Day Gold Medal of Honour.

The Winsemius Awards celebrate and recognize innovative and impactful achievements, serving as the most prestigious form of **recognition for Dutch or Singaporean companies in Singapore in areas such as collaboration, business achievement, innovation, social responsibility and sustainability**, truly reflecting the spirit and legacy of Dr. Albert Winsemius.

We are proud to announce our guests of honour for the Winsemius Awards 2025:  
Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, H.E. Mrs. Anneke Adema, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Singapore and Brunei

Mrs. Petri Hofsté, Chair of the Nyenrode Foundation and Supervisory Board Member at Achmea, Rabobank and FrieslandCampina (more information [here](#))

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the DutchCham Winsemius Awards will take place on Monday, May 26, 2025 at the Fairmont in Singapore bringing together 250 distinguished guests from the Singaporean and Dutch business communities.

Three awards will be awarded in the following [categories](#):

**Winsemius Red Orange Award.**

The Red Orange Award highlights the significance of the long standing and ongoing relationship between The Netherlands and Singapore.

*Nominees include:*

- ING Bank
- VDL/ Signify/ WEnergy
- Royal HaskoningDHV

For more information and pitch videos of the three nominees in this category, click [here](#)

**Winsemius Business Achievement Award.**

The Business Achievement Award celebrates the success of an organization and honours its business performance, longevity, development of new directions, business growth and/or any significant innovations with tangible results that benefit Dutch Business in Singapore.

*Nominees include:*

- Walraven
- Witteveen+Bos
- VDL

For more information and pitch videos of the three nominees in this category, click [here](#)

**Winsemius Community Impact Award.**

The Community Impact Award recognises and honours companies' commitment to positively impacting Singaporean communities with tangible results.

*Nominees include:*

- Holland International School (HIS)
- Fairmont Hotel/ Swiss Hotel
- Witteveen+Bos

For more information and pitch videos of the three nominees in this category, click [here](#)

**About DutchCham:** [DutchCham](#) (Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Singapore), is a recognised organisation that connects the Dutch business community in Singapore. We provide a platform to share and showcase knowledge, skills and expertise through a wide variety of business and social activities and events. Our mission is to inform, connect and inspire professionals and companies in Singapore with a shared interest in Dutch business.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit the [DutchCham](#) website

Visit the [Winsemius Awards](#) website

**QUERIES**

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